



**City of Columbia Water Works
Columbia, South Carolina
2009 Water Quality Report
Public Water System 4010001**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

You may call 803-545-3400 for all water quality related questions or concerns Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or 803-733-8336 at all other times.

City of Columbia
Water Quality Complaints(8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)803-545-3400
after hours: Columbia Canal WTP 803-733-8336
Lake Murray WTP 803-781-2181
Water Distribution 803-545-3900
Service Problems (all hours) 803-545-3900
Water Bills (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) 803-545-3300

S.C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control
Bureau of Water 803-898-4300

Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791

National Lead Information Clearinghouse 800-424-5323

Consumer Product Safety Commission 800-638-2772
www.columbiasc.net

Esté informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted toma. Tradúscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.



BEST TASTING DRINKING WATER IN THE STATE!

City of Columbia was voted as the best tasting drinking water in the state at the 2010 South Carolina Environmental Conference.

Please celebrate this honor by turning on the tap and enjoying our fine water.

A Publication of the City of Columbia's Department of Utilities and Engineering

COLUMBIA WATER: QUALITY ON TAP SINCE 1835

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have established strict quality standards for drinking water. These standards are designed to protect consumers against disease-causing bacteria and other harmful substances. EPA requires public water systems to send their customers an annual report containing information about their drinking water quality and compliance with the standards. The City of Columbia is pleased to present the information contained in this report to you and hope that it will be both informative and helpful in making personal health-based decisions regarding your drinking water consumption. We welcome your comments and questions. We may be reached during normal business hours by calling 803-545-3400. You are also welcome to attend regularly scheduled meetings of City Council that are generally held the first and third Wednesdays of each month at City Hall, 1737 Main Street at 10:00 a.m. Contact the Public Relations Department at 803-545-3020 for time and location or visit www.columbiasc.net.

WHERE DOES COLUMBIA'S WATER COME FROM?

The City of Columbia operates two water treatment plants, one of which draws water from the Broad River Diversion Canal (Canal) and the other from Lake Murray (Lake). The two plants together produce an average of 60 million gallons of water per day that is furnished to approximately 375,000 people in Richland and Lexington Counties through more than 2,400 miles of underground pipeline. Generally, the Lake Murray Plant serves the area west of the Broad River and the area north of Interstate 20, and the Columbia Canal Plant serves the remaining area. The system is designed, however, so that sustainable water can be supplied to the entire service area by either plant.

The City of Columbia uses a series of treatment techniques to produce potable (drinkable) water. As water is pumped into the treatment plants, intake areas screen out floating debris such as plants and fish. Aluminum sulfate (alum) and other polymers are rapidly mixed into the water to help particles in the water cling together (coagulate) and form heavier particles, referred to as floc. The water mixture is then gently circulated so that the coagulating particles continue to merge into larger floc particles. These floc particles pass into a sedimentation basin where they settle to the bottom and are eventually disposed of. Filtration removes any remaining particles. The water passes through filters containing layers of sand, gravel and anthracite coal. Small floc particles cling to filter material as water passes through. After all particles have been removed, a small amount of chlorine is added to the water to keep bacteria from developing as it travels to your home or business. A small amount of fluoride is also added to the water to assist in preventing tooth decay.

The SCDHEC has completed a comprehensive water assessment report on the Broad River Diversion Canal (also referred to as the Columbia Canal) and Lake Murray. This Source Water Assessment report is available and can be reviewed at 1136 Washington Street or by contacting 803-545-3400.

